

EXHIBIT 10

(12) **United States Patent**
Kakuk(10) Patent No.: **US 6,910,324 B2**
(45) Date of Patent: **Jun. 28, 2005**(54) **MULTI-BLADED ROTARY CUTTING DECK WITH MULCHING AND DISCHARGE/ COLLECTION MODES**(75) Inventor: **Jay J. Kakuk, Plymouth, MN (US)**(73) Assignee: **The Toro Company, Bloomington, MN (US)**

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/061,442**(22) Filed: **Feb. 1, 2002**(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(51) **Int. Cl.⁷** **A01D 34/52; A01D 34/73**(52) **U.S. Cl.** **56/255; 56/295; 56/320.2**(58) **Field of Search** **56/320.1, 320.2, 56/255, 295, 17.4, 17.5, 6, DIG. 20, DIG. 24**(56) **References Cited**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A rotary cutting deck has dual, side-by-side cutting chambers each of which houses a rotary cutting blade. The blades rotate so that grass clippings exit to the rear of the cutting deck through a central, rearwardly extending exit tunnel. A pivotal mulch door is located within the exit tunnel with the mulch door swinging between two positions. In one position, the exit tunnel is open to permit operation of the cutting deck in a discharge/collection mode of operation. In the other position, the exit tunnel is closed to convert the cutting deck to a mulching mode of operation. A V-shaped baffle with a forwardly facing apex is placed in the bottom and rear of the exit tunnel to enhance performance in the mulching mode of operation.

27 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

